

Application No. 10/067,174
Amendment Dated March 16, 2005
Reply to Office Action of December 20, 2004
Express Mail No. EV 597771618 US

Amendments to the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A drainage system grate assembly for covering a watercourse of a drainage system, the drainage system assembly comprising:

a frame ~~having at least two opposing sides~~ set within the watercourse;

a grate set within the frame and including -

at least one crossbar having a length, a width, and opposing ends, wherein the crossbar spans the watercourse along the crossbar's length, and further wherein the crossbar is operable to be secured to the frame at each general end of the crossbar, ~~each of which is operable to be secured to the frame,~~ and a plurality of upstanding members located along the length of each crossbar, and a plurality of tread bars positioned between each upstanding member, such that the tread bars are supported by and positioned on top of the at least one crossbar;
and

at least one locking element, each of which is structurally separate from the frame and grate and of a rigid construction, such that each locking element is operable to interface with the frame so as to secure each crossbar to the frame.

2. (Previously Presented) The drainage system grate assembly as set forth in claim 1, wherein the frame includes a horizontal ledge protruding towards the opposing side of the frame.

3. (Previously Presented) The drainage system grate assembly as set forth in claim 2, wherein the frame includes a shelf extending downwardly from each horizontal ledge.

4-10. (Cancelled)

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11. (Previously Presented) The drainage system grate assembly as set forth in claim 1, wherein the locking element comprises a bar having a length approximately at least the same as a length of the at least one crossbar.

12-33. (Cancelled)

34. (Currently Amended) The drainage system grate assembly as set forth in claim ~~[[33]]~~ 1, wherein each upstanding member of each crossbar includes a flange protruding horizontally from the upstanding member and operable to interface the upstanding members with the locking element, so as to secure the grate to the frame.

35. (Previously Presented) The drainage system grate assembly as set forth in claim 3, the locking element including an upturned, vertical member adapted to interface with and contact the downwardly extending shelf of the frame so as to secure the crossbar to the frame.

36. (Cancelled)

37. (Previously Presented) The drainage system grate assembly as set forth in claim 1, wherein the grate is a first grate and the drainage system grate assembly further comprises a second grate positioned adjacent the first grate.

38. (Previously Presented) The drainage system grate assembly as set forth in claim 1, wherein in a first orientation, a length of the at least one crossbar is generally perpendicular to the opposing sides of the frame, and in a second orientation, the length of the at least one crossbar is generally parallel to the opposing sides of the frame.

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39. (New) The drainage system grate assembly as set forth in claim 1, wherein the locking element is a first locking element and further including a second locking element, such that the first and second locking elements secure opposing ends of the crossbar to the frame.

40. (New) The drainage system grate assembly as set forth in claim 1, wherein the locking element must be manually actuated for engagement of the locking element with the frame so as to secure the grate within the frame.

41. (New) The drainage system grate assembly as set forth in claim 1, wherein the locking element is raised along a generally vertical axis, so as to engage the locking element in securing relationship with the frame.

42. (New) The drainage system grate assembly as set forth in claim 1, wherein the upstanding members positioned on the crossbar do not extend substantially beyond the width of the crossbar.

43. (New) The drainage system grate assembly as set forth in claim 1, wherein a top of the tread bars positioned on and supported by the crossbars is generally flush with opposing shoulders of the watercourse.